



Policy Brief.....September 24, 2003

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Contents:

**CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2555—Homeland Security
 Appropriations Act for FY 2004**

BY THE NUMBERS:

Discretionary Budget Authority in Millions of Dollars

	FY '03	FY '04 Request	FY '04 House	FY '04 Senate	Conference Report
Appropriations	22,568	28,372	29,411	28,521	29,411
<i>War Supplemental</i>	3,911	0	0	0	0
<i>Grants to Airlines</i>	2,396	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	28,875	28,372	29,411	28,521	29,411
<i>Advance Approps</i>	0	0	4,703		4,703

Excluding the War Supplemental and Grants to Airlines, the Conference Report is:

- **\$6,843 million or 30.3% above last year;**
- **\$1,038 million or 3.7% above the President's request;**
- **\$890 million or 3.1% above the Senate-passed bill; and**
- **equal to the House-passed bill.**

The Advance Funding included in the bill is for Project Bioshield and is to remain available until FY 2013. The Administration proposed mandatory funding for this program.

EARMARKS:

- The Conference Report generally continues earmarks included in either the House or Senate Reports.
- The Conference Report earmarks funding for the following bridge projects:
 - \$5.25 million for the Fourteen Mile Bridge in Mobile, AL;
 - \$2 million for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Bridge in Burlington, IA;
 - \$1 million for the Canadian Pacific Railroad Bridge in LaCrosse, WI;
 - \$2.25 million for the Chelsea Street Bridge in Chelsea, MA;
 - \$6.75 million for the Florida Avenue railroad/highway combination bridge in New Orleans, LA;
 - \$1 million for EJ&E Railroad Bridge in Morris, IL; and
 - \$1 million for John F Limehouse Bridge in Charleston, SC.

These earmarks consume 100% of the funds appropriated for Alteration of Bridges.

LANGUAGE OF NOTE:

Cargo: Modifies the House language to require DHS to procure, as soon as possible, systems to inspect and screen air cargo and in the meantime take all possible actions to enhance the known shipper program.

New Fee: The Conference Report authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Attorney General to impose “reasonable” fees and charges (on an individual or employer) for background checks if such check is required under Federal law for an activity in the field of transportation.

TSA Employee Cap: Caps TSA at 45,000 full-time equivalents.

US VISIT System Restriction: The Conference Report prohibits obligation of funds for the U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology system (US VISIT) until certain steps are taken, including compliance with acquisition rules. The bill also prevents expenditure of funds for the project until an expenditure plan has been approved by the Appropriations Committee.
